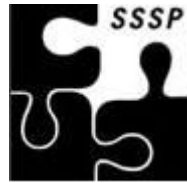


# THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS



## 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

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### SURVEY RESULTS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

9/25/2009

This is a summary report of the 2009 Annual Meeting survey results. It lists each question, possible answers, response summary, and all unedited comments for each question. Please note there will be misspellings and errors as the comments appear exactly as entered by the responder.

<b>Question 1: Ease of accessing the online annual meeting schedule</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Excellent	52.4%	98
Above Average	25.7%	48
Average	15.0%	28
Below Average	2.7%	5
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	4.3%	8
Comments (please specify)		17
<b>answered question</b>		<b>187</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

<b>Comments (please specify):</b>	
1.	Consider accessibility issues.
2.	The program is so big that it's very hard to find info
3.	I guess I had trouble doing so -- that is trouble "reading" it like a hard copy -- with index of paper authors.
4.	The files were not compatible with older versions of word. I have a mac that cannot convert and I could not download a readable schedule.
5.	In addition to the PDF option, if the item was somehow embedded on the web page, I think that I would have enjoyed that.
6.	When the prelim program was out, it was great. When the completed program was out and broken into sections, it was difficult to navigate. Please have a full schedule available for perusal as well. Or if there was 1 available and I didnt' see it, then please make it more prominent online.
7.	We cannot really have search engines to locate presenters and themes of sections.
8.	Is there a way to search & find the schedule? Also, it would be nice to have time headers, so that you don't have to keep going back to remember what time slot you're looking at.
9.	Highlight sub-headings with icons on front page of website. And make the site more user-friendly in general.
10.	it was okay.
11.	Excellent to have the preliminary program available on the website as a PDF. Very easy to access and find information that way.
12.	It would be great to have a searchable schedule, much like the ASAs.
13.	I would always be re-directed to the message from the Executive Officer and not to the preliminary listings of the program schedule, which made it hard to plan between ASA, SSSP, SWS, and SSSI.
14.	I don't remember
15.	Very easy user friendly access.

16.	would like one like ASA to add to schedule
17.	I wish the program was searchable.

<b>QUESTION 2: Ease of online pre-registration for the annual meeting</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Excellent	67.0%	126
Above Average	15.4%	29
Average	11.7%	22
Below Average	0.5%	1
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	5.3%	10
Comments (please specify)		8
<b>answered question</b>		<b>188</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>0</b>

<b>Comments (please specify)</b>	
1.	Accessibility issues should be more clearly labled so as to be dealt with.
2.	didn't use online pre-registration
3.	You all worked with me quite well and addressed my questions very quickly.
4.	The first time I tried to register I was unable to (some problem with the online system). This was resolved when I made the second attempt.
5.	had no problem
6.	I have been Emeritus @ SSSP for years (been a member for 40 plus years) and this is the first meeting since I became an Emeritus member that I did JNOT have an emeritus ribbon in my packet.
7.	It was a bit confusing - but may be it's because there were a lot of excess direction readings.
8.	Having a paypal option or something to ensure credit card security would have been helpful

<b>QUESTION 3: Ease of onsite annual meeting registration</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Excellent	41.1%	76
Above Average	11.9%	22
Average	2.7%	5
Below Average	0.5%	1
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	43.8%	81
Comments (please specify)		7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>185</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

<b>Comments (please specify):</b>	
1.	friendly, helpful service. The person ahead of me in line came late for a session and had a problem with registration. The staff person was calming, kind and put this person at ease. great work!
2.	Plus real friendly -- nice!
3.	I really liked the stickers we attached to our name tag indicating that we were grad students, new members, etc. It was a good way of seeing who was who.
4.	It was a little tricky to find the registration desk but the hotel staff were able to help.
5.	when I tried to register there wasn't anyone working the table who knew how to do it.
6.	A bit chaos but very FRIENDLY and HELPFUL staff!
7.	The people who worked at the desk were really helpful and very friendly.

<b>QUESTION 4: Location of onsite annual meeting registration</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Excellent	36.4%	68
Above Average	26.7%	50
Average	20.3%	38
Below Average	3.2%	6
Not so Good	1.1%	2
N/A	12.3%	23
Comments (please specify)		23
<b>answered question</b>		<b>187</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

<b>Comments (please specify):</b>	
1.	The hotel was gorgeous. The hill was a tough climb. :)
2.	Marvelous -- lovely hotel rooms, meeting rooms and good distance from ASA.
3.	A very nice hotel; not many places to eat atop Nob Hill, and a longist walk to ASA, and a very steep return walk to SSSP hotel
4.	Probably not an uncommon comment: could have been closer to the ASA hotels.
5.	The hotel was confusing and it felt like everything was all over the place--including having sessions in guest rooms.
6.	Did not see signs for registration location
7.	Closer to the ASA meetings would have been better.
8.	Great to have been able to go to San Francisco especially when my trip was funded by my institution. I didn't even look into staying in the hotel because I knew that it would be out of my budget, but it was a fantastic facility!

9.	Hotel was very expensive!!
10.	Finding meetings and registration was tricky. The layout of the hotel did not encourage much interaction between attendees - please use signs in the future (e.g., directions from the lobby to the registration/book display room).
11.	could be closer to the ASA meeting site
12.	Difficult finding where to go when I first arrived at the hotel.
13.	The hotel was terrific, attractive and comfortable, far superior to the ASA hotels in terms of character.
14.	The hotel was exceedingly expensive to both stay at as well as eat at. This immediately excluded/limited many people's attendance.
15.	Very nice setting, but discordant; elitist. Difficult for those struggling with money, students, etc.
16.	we should have ALL meetings in SF.
17.	Being at the top of Nob Hill was a bit of a hike for those not staying in the conference hotel.
18.	Hotel was expensive
19.	i did not like having to present in a regular hotel room. this was unprofessional and space was limited.
20.	The onsite registration was not close to the main entrance of the hotel. It was strange to have to go through the restaurant and down the stairs.
21.	maybe the location of the desks shouldn't have been right in front of the stair case. there's not enough room for other's to line up.
22.	hotel was nice, some rooms a buit odd. lots of people turned off by having to go up hill from ASA
23.	Excellent hotel and location--however the meeting rooms were spread out (particularly the meeting Rm on the 8th floor which was very out of the way

<b>QUESTION 5: Clarity of program</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Excellent	46.0%	86
Above Average	34.8%	65
Average	17.1%	32
Below Average	1.1%	2
Not so Good	0.5%	1
N/A	0.5%	1
Comments (please specify)		7
<b>answered question</b>		<b>187</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

Comments (please specify):	
1.	I wish the appropriate dates and times could be printed on the tops of each page in the program schedule.
2.	font could be larger for easier reading
3.	It's always tough finding the best way to put them together without them seeming daunting, but I thought it was well orchestrated - far better than ASA's. I did as the website instructed - read it before I came and I was able to easily fill through pages when I needed a reminder.
4.	did not really look at it.
5.	The program guide needs a quick way to find what you need. Perhaps put black "tabs" printed in the same place for all programs on a given day so you can visually see that you're on Friday's program when flipping through. And needs better indexing to help find what's going on during all the sessions. I mostly relied on other people's advice on where to go each time because it was hard to find the section for a given time or subject. They were all perfectly in sequence, but just somehow couldn't find the right page for the sessions.
6.	I would like the times for sessions to be more legible. I often find myself having to go back a page or so in the program to figure out what time a particular session is at. Is there anyway to list times - start times, at least - on every page or with every session.
7.	Hard to determine the times of the sessions. Had to flip through pages. Could add the time to each section description.

QUESTION 6: Ease of accessing the online annual meeting schedule		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	52.4%	98
Above Average	25.7%	48
Average	15.0%	28
Below Average	2.7%	5
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	4.3%	8
Comments (please specify)		17
<b>answered question</b>		<b>187</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

Comments (please specify):	
1.	I did not spend a lot of time at the exhibit and so am not a very good judge.
2.	Would be better if some freebees.
3.	I like the fact that it was not overwhelming, and I was able to find books of interest.
4.	Not able to view this year.
5.	SSSP's is always a small exhibit, but covers nicely the areas of SSSP
6.	poor compared to ASA, but otherwise decent; book prices high compared to a venue such as amazon
7.	We should probably consider invitiiing alternative presses to our meetings in addition to the consolidated vender for the usual publishers.

8.	Too bad I didn't buy anything. I thought it was displayed nicely and in good lighting.
9.	i would suggest contacting alternative presses (PM Press, AK Press, South End etc.) to compete with the ASA book exhibit and provide SSSP attendees a quality and different book experience
10.	I know that it is hard to get publishers to buy booths at both ASA and SSSP, but I think more thought needs to be given to making SSSP one's primary meeting. I, for one, would not have registered for ASA but for the book exhibit.
11.	I wasn't able to go to the book exhibit this year, sadly.
12.	nice job...very nice folks running it.
13.	I chose not to rate the book exhibit because I think we are in a special set of circumstances holding our meeting at the same time as ASA and especially this year with publishers cutting back expenses due to the economy.
14.	Didn't see it.
15.	There were lots of books but the set-up was not enticing, especially when there are no reps there. Maybe have some receptions held there so people would visit more.
16.	maybe it could be sorted according to categories, e.g. poverty, gender inequality, crime and deviance, social change, etc.
17.	more cultural books?
18.	The most books that I can remember ever having.
19.	Some publishers should be contacted

<b>QUESTION 7: Quality of sessions attended</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Excellent	27.3%	51
Above Average	47.6%	89
Average	20.9%	39
Below Average	2.7%	5
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	1.6%	3
Comments (please specify)		24
<b>answered question</b>		<b>187</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

<b>Comments (please specify):</b>	
1.	I thought the overall session quality was outstanding compared to sessions I have attended in the previous years.
2.	Some of the sessions were uneven but that is to be expected with mtgs of this kind.
3.	The films were especially good. I liked the format of a film attended by the film maker, and a discussion.

4.	well mixed of course. a couple were very good indeed, and a couple were average
5.	Some papers/presentations I heard were not at all scholarly.
6.	Quality is not the issue. People's presentations are quite good. The question is: how long can SSSP attract presenters when there is nobody in the audience. This is a crucial issue.
7.	Attendees forgot the various roles of individuals in the room and unfortunately complained that a discussant was talking to much when it was their purpose to, for example, connect the presentations in the form of a briefing prior to discussion. SSSP is inspiring - glad to see that all this research is being done!
8.	Rarely more than 5 people in attendance at any session I attended.
9.	The sessions were fine. Some folks submitted work to present and didn't show.
10.	Too many sessions, not enough people to attend them. I think it would be better to have fewer sessions so that their can be an audience.
11.	I attended a film session this year and it was great. That's why I gave such a high rating to sessions which included both papers and a film session.
12.	A mix of session formats - more plenaries and potentially some workshop-esque sessions would have been useful.
13.	Not enough discussion time
14.	I got caught up in having fun in SF and forgot to go to any sessions.
15.	The sessions were fantastic.
16.	I liked the availability of projectors this year, as well as the omnipresent tech support.
17.	too many sessions had low attendance.
18.	Some shockingly bad papers--how did this happen? Also in 1 session I attended half of the scheduled speakers failed to show up! (that's 2 out of 4, including the one I got up early to see).
19.	Papers are often good, but audiences are often small.
20.	I attended one excellent session, one average session, and the session I organized had two presenters who did not show up, did not let me know that they would not show up, and (when I checked at registration) had not even registered for the meeting. The session had two presenters, of the four who were listed in the program. While I realize that the organizers have a lot to do already, it would be helpful if there were a mechanism to alert section organizers if their presenters have not registered for the conference by a certain date so we could figure out how best to handle. it also seems unfortunate that those presenters are listed in the program when they do not follow through on their presentations - we had at least two people attend the session who came specifically to hear a presentation that was not made.
21.	quite small but allowed for intimate discussion
22.	The institutional ethnographic sessions were excellent! There should be more of them and perhaps an institutional ethnography workshop.
23.	Too many concurrent sessions diluted attendance.
24.	sessions were very good but mostly poorly attended



**QUESTION 8: Effectiveness of meeting space**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	28.0%	52
Above Average	34.9%	65
Average	26.3%	49
Below Average	7.5%	14
Not so Good	2.2%	4
N/A	1.1%	2
Comments (please specify)		37
<b>answered question</b>		<b>186</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

	Comments (please specify)
1.	Although the space itself was very nice, the location v.v. ASA was quite inconvenient.
2.	it was gorgeous!
3.	Remember accessibility issues.
4.	I realize this was unavoidable given accessibility issues, but the Oven was a difficult room.
5.	Better than Boston and easier to find rooms.
6.	Inconvenient location of rooms. One meeting was in a hotel room--much too small.
7.	some wer fine, others too small and one was noisy.
8.	Elevators were a problem because there were so few of them.
9.	But there were A/V problems in one room (a buzz in the sound system) which hotel employees couldn't resolve, despite several requests.
10.	The meetings on the 6th floor were hard to access, the elevator took a very long time.
11.	I only came for one day, two sessions, and the space for those sessions was fine.
12.	The rooms were confusing and the media was a huge problem in my session. The projector did not work and the people sent in to fix it too over half the session to realize it was the projector. Then, my student lent her laptop to help and we ended up getting the wrong power cord returned to us and it was not compatible for her computer and I had to buy her a replacement cord because hers could not be found. It was a very frustrating session.
13.	Some rooms were isolated which discouraged attendance. If that's considered the value of those sessions, perhaps they should not be held.
14.	Well done!
15.	Some of the session rooms were in remote places that looked like converted bedrooms.
16.	The hotel was beautiful--much nicer than the Hilton. But it was hard commuting between the two hotels. Good exercise but sociologists, I have noticed, are very anti-exercise--an overstatement, no doubt, but it was hard for me to get people to walk between the two hotels.

17.	Nob Hill location was difficult for those of us with bad knees!
18.	I didn't like that odd meeting situation on the 6th floor (I think that was the floor).
19.	The few sessions that had to go into hotel rooms were difficult ones; hard to hear given the acoustics of the rooms, etc. On other hand, not our fault and nothing that could be done about it.
20.	All the changes to room locations for sessions was tough and I believe attendance at some sessions suffered as a result. There was less of a core space for the meetings with so many sessions scheduled in different parts of the hotel.
21.	Not impressed by the meetings rooms - they were either far too big or far too small. Not to mention how far away they were from one another and the tedium of that elevator!
22.	Several sessions (e.g., student paper competition # 2) were assigned a room in a hidden corner, which is very difficult to find. It also created a feeling that student paper sessions is not important.
23.	The ones in Fournau's Ovens were not very inviting.
24.	One of the sessions took place in a hotel room - bed removed. Not enough room for everyone to be seated - some people sitting on the floor, cramped.
25.	right price-right place
26.	The meeting space was good. There were no awkwardly shaped rooms!
27.	long climb for 5 blocks!
28.	Some of the meeting spaces were too small for IE audience. Other spaces for other divisions meetings were often way too large.
29.	Mixed. The room on the 7th floor was way too small. People were on the floors & sitting literally touching each otherto fit more than 1 person per chair, and still some people couldn't get in. Ballrooms were very good. IE sessions seemed to always be in rooms that were too small.
30.	This is one of the best hotels that SSSP has been hosted in. However, it was quite challenging to travel between ASA and the SSSP if one takes into consideration the unseasonably warm weather in San Francisco and the two steep hills between hotels. I would arrive to both conferences after that walk sweaty and stinky. This is not too attractive before a presentation.
31.	Maybe it was just me, but there did not seem as much congregating as some past meetings.
32.	Meeting in a hotel room on a distant upper floor was not the best of meeting spaces. It was neither easy to find nor was there much room. The view was nice though.
33.	good places to see people while hanging around
34.	Great rooms
35.	hotel staff seemed unprepared for a large group
36.	The Fournou's Oven room was terrible. Lots of noise from the kitchen and difficult to access.
37.	see comments above

**QUESTION 9: Did you stay at the Stanford Court Hotel? If so, please answer questions 10 and 11 below.**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	45.2%	84
No	54.8%	102
If No, please specify reason for not staying at the Stanford Court Hotel.		32
<b>answered question</b>		<b>186</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

	<b>If No, please specify reason for not staying at the Stanford Court Hotel.:</b>
1.	I was unable to find a roommate via the roommate matching service and so found a roommate through the SWS listserv. She needed to stay at the Hilton. I also was unable to make the Stanford Court Hotel reservation site work and had trouble figuring out how far the Stanford court hotel was from the Hilton (and did not realize that the hotel would be eight vertical blocks straight UP from the Hilton! Yikes!)
2.	too expensive (I was paying all conference expenses out of pocket).
3.	cost
4.	I ended up staying with a relative who lived nearby.
5.	with family, opted for a larger vacation rental
6.	couldn't accommodate whole family
7.	Too expensive
8.	I could not afford it. It was too expensive so I stayed at a cheaper hotel
9.	I (and my roommates) had more activities at the Hilton.
10.	I had to attend ASA and I was at the Hilton.
11.	Cost, and wanted to stay with my friend.
12.	My husband needed to be at the ASA all day for the entire convention. However, next year I plan to stay at the SSSP hotel whether he chooses to stay there or not. I prefer the SSSP people and the atmosphere
13.	Too expensive.
14.	I had too much stuff to do at three different conferences this year. Usually I do stay at the SSSP hotel.
15.	Stayed at the ASA hotel
16.	Stayed with a friend who lived in Sf.
17.	I wish I hadn't. It was so expensive!
18.	As a grad student, I couldn't afford it. We thought (as in past experience with other hotels) that we would be able to have 4 in a room. That was NOT the case. Even though I registered in late March at the Stanford, they said there were no 2-bed dbl rooms. the only thing available were rooms with one double bed! pitiful
19.	expense

20.	needed to stay close to ASA
21.	As I couldn't find a roommate, it was too expensive to stay in conference hotels.
22.	local resident
23.	personal associations and friends
24.	Price. I stayed at a nearby hotel that had rooms for a lower price.
25.	I stayed with family.
26.	Stayed with friend in area.
27.	I was able to locate a less expensive hotel within six blocks.
28.	too expensive and i think it was booked by then
29.	Stayed at a preferred hotel for a greater discount.
30.	It was too expensive and our university was not reimbursing for travel due to budget restrictions.
31.	cheaper rate elsewhere
32.	I didn't check out the location early enough and stayed at the hilton where ASA was. BIG MISTAKE! I wish there had been more clarity with respect tot he location. I could have saved money and been happier at the Stanford compared to the Hilton

10. Quality of guest rooms (if you stayed at the Stanford Court Hotel)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	40.7%	50
Above Average	18.7%	23
Average	6.5%	8
Below Average	1.6%	2
Not so Good	0.8%	1
N/A	31.7%	39
Comments (please specify)		6
<b>answered question</b>		<b>123</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>65</b>

Comments (please specify)	
1.	It would be great to have free wireless access in our rooms. Is that possible to negotiate?
2.	Lovely interior decorating -- one of my colleagues who stayed elsewhere actually took pictures of the drapes in the hopes of replicating them for her new home!
3.	I thought this was a wonderful location with very good ammenities. The food and drink were expensive, but that is San Francisco!
4.	Very nice accommodations! But the best thing about this hotel was the staff. Everyone was very friendly and very helpful. The restaurant was very nice and a great place to meet people and have a drink or a meal. Prices

	in the restaurant were reasonable, unlike many hotel restaurants. The location was also very good.
5.	the room was very, very small.
6.	small but well stocked

#### 11. Cost of guest rooms (if you stayed at the Stanford Court Hotel)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	7.3%	9
Above Average	21.0%	26
Average	30.6%	38
Below Average	4.8%	6
Not so Good	5.6%	7
N/A	30.6%	38
Comments (please specify)		16
<b>answered question</b>		<b>124</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>64</b>

	Comments (please specify):
1.	I wanted to stay there but didn't for 2 reasons: - I needed to reserve a room with 2 beds because my family was coming with me. The said they had none left; I called in late March 09 to make the reservation. 2. The cost (I wanted to stay in S.F. a few extra days beyond the conference, and the cost of the Stanford Court was prohibitive)
2.	I found the hotels very expensive always, but this year I was able to get a special rate and share with someone, which made the cost easier to bear.
3.	These hotels are increasingly beyond the budget of assistant profs and grad students
4.	fairly expensive
5.	For me, coming from the UK it was very expensive (even the conference discount rate)
6.	it is SF, what are you going to do?? Things are expensive there.
7.	the additional Internet charge (14.95 per day) was excessive. Should be part of the room cost.
8.	More than I ever pay, but I guess that's the going rate. It always amazes me that I can stay at a cheaper hotel and get complimentary breakfast and wireless, but paid more here to not get them. Great fitness room here.
9.	The hotel room cost was par for the course, given the location. Associated costs add up significantly. Parking, food (no food provided at the conference, and no time built in for lunch breaks, so pretty well had to eat at the hotel if I wanted to catch the sessions)
10.	good for SF
11.	These rooms were very expensive if you booked thru SSSP. Booking the same room with AARP discount was considerably less. For graduates student staying in hotel was prohibitive.
12.	The hotel was expensive and given the economic times the cost was prohibitive for some of my colleagues

13.	SSSP is going to have to think about the cost of rooms. This was a good price for what one got, but in the future people may be more squeezed for \$ and prioritize cost over value.
14.	I rented through expedia: half the conference rate!
15.	Costs were high
16.	The cost is what prevented me from staying there.

12. Service by hotel		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	42.1%	69
Above Average	23.2%	38
Average	8.5%	14
Below Average	1.2%	2
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	25.0%	41
Comments (please specify)		15
<b>answered question</b>		<b>164</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>24</b>

Comments (please specify):	
1.	I loved that it was a union shop
2.	I left my laptop power cord in the room and in spite of repeated calls they did not find it. I found this hard to believe since the cord is very long and quite easily seen! I suspect that the cleaning staff just took it. It's not something you just throw away!
3.	I loved the staff. They could not have been more helpful.
4.	Although, there was a lingering odor throughout the hotel that bothered me each time I entered the hotel from the outside.
5.	You get what you pay for.
6.	Staff was wonderful
7.	they seemed glad to see us
8.	The hotel staff were friendly and very helpful.
9.	Banquet staff was EXCELLENT! So was the day manager, Christina
10.	As I noted above, the friendliness and helpfulness of the staff were the best things about this hotel!
11.	The hotel staff was exceptionally helpful, gracious and tolerant.
12.	These guys were great.
13.	They were always great. I really appreciated how there was always staff around to direct you between sessions to

	new rooms. I also thought the AV staff did a great job making powerpoints work.
14.	Best staff relations ever; most friendly
15.	They wrongly charged my credit card three times and it took them a week and a half to resolve the erroneous charges.

13. Quality of restaurant guide		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	14.7%	26
Above Average	22.6%	40
Average	23.2%	41
Below Average	4.5%	8
Not so Good	1.1%	2
N/A	33.9%	60
Comments (please specify)		19
<b>answered question</b>		<b>177</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

	Comments (please specify)
1.	I know SF really well so I was disappointed not to see many of my own favorites included
2.	Did not attempt to use.
3.	didn't use it
4.	Some cheaper, more local options might have been included
5.	I would work better to have categories by type of food and price rather than area of the city. For example, I might like to eat Asian food. If that is what I really want then I will find transportation.
6.	Didn't use it
7.	Didn't use it, but glad it was available.
8.	Too brief. And written for ASA Market St. Area- not SPSS California Ave. area of the city.
9.	Not certain what this refers to.
10.	Didn't use. Too expensive
11.	How could you go wrong in SF!
12.	Some of the prices were a little underestimated.
13.	an additional section with very inexpensive restaurants listed.
14.	i have attended SSSP for more than a decade and this was the worst restaurant guide I have ever seen. There very few options listed (given the incredible diversity and amount of restaurants in the area. The guide missed some very good restaurants in the area.

15.	I was with friends and family.
16.	A rather skimpy list for SF, and few/none in Nob Hill area
17.	Should be better sorted by region for those unfamiliar with the area
18.	Only one really affordable suggestion in the conference area.
19.	focused on dinner. Breakfast/lunch spots would be helpful

14. Overall Experience of Welcome Reception		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	17.1%	31
Above Average	13.3%	24
Average	8.3%	15
Below Average	0.6%	1
Not so Good	1.7%	3
N/A	59.1%	107
Comments (please specify)		10
<b>answered question</b>		<b>181</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>7</b>

	Comments (please specify)
1.	This is a wonderful idea.
2.	Did not attend.
3.	need more high tables for standing with drinks -- some vegan options would help also
4.	Didn't attend
5.	Did not attend
6.	Didn't attend.
7.	Very few attendees! And no complimentary drinks (at least 1 or 2 with a ticket in our registration packet would have been nice)! Non-alcoholic drinks as well.
8.	13 bucks for a glass of wine?!?!
9.	This was a nice addition to the meetings that I'd like to see continued.
10.	I arrived late, so perhaps I missed the official welcome. There also wasn't a whole lot of seating. I'm not a new SSSP member, but I can imagine that the reception might not be particularly welcoming to one who is...particularly a grad student.



### 15. Overall Experience of Division-Sponsored Reception

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	15.7%	28
Above Average	11.2%	20
Average	5.6%	10
Below Average	1.7%	3
Not so Good	1.7%	3
N/A	64.0%	114
Comments (please specify)		18
<b>answered question</b>		<b>178</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>10</b>

	Comments (please specify)
1.	I mainly attended sessions from my main division of IE. Already too many sessions to be able to attend other sessions. It's a friendly and supportive group and I learned new things.
2.	I know there were not enough chairs for those who wanted them, but sitting on the floor led to some delightful conversations.
3.	Didn't attend this year.
4.	Not enough seating.
5.	has to be a way to improve participation in this event
6.	Didn't attend
7.	Did not attend
8.	Didn't attend.
9.	I am sorry it was not better attended. It was really very nice.
10.	It seemed divisive that mental health had a reception separate from the joint one held at the same time (with environment and health sections, I think). Having them at different times or different days would alleviate that. The food was good.
11.	13 bucks for a glass of wine?!?!
12.	Did not go.
13.	could not attend
14.	Seemed underattended.
15.	Room was too small and did not have enough seats.
16.	A bigger room with more seating would have been optimal.
17.	AWESOME! Live, y happening and people were friendly. Good + plentiful food. take pictures next time
18.	Drinking and Drugs Division's Party was fantastic and over the top!

16. Overall Experience of AIDS Fundraiser		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	4.5%	8
Above Average	4.0%	7
Average	0.6%	1
Below Average	1.1%	2
Not so Good	2.3%	4
N/A	87.6%	155
Comments (please specify)		12
<b>answered question</b>		<b>177</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>11</b>

	Comments (please specify)
1.	Wish more people had attended. Music was great.
2.	Excellent -- I didn't attend but was real pleased to win the waffle -- my first time to win a waffle and what a wonderful prize!
3.	did not attend
4.	wasn't able to attend
5.	Didn't attend
6.	Did not attend
7.	Didn't attend.
8.	We need to do something about this. It does not attract many people and their were few auction items.
9.	could not attend
10.	Attendance was not good and the items for sale were largely uninteresting--except for Scott's piece of pottery.

17. Overall Experience of Reception honoring Dr. Hood, Executive Officer, 1990-2009		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	20.1%	35
Above Average	9.2%	16
Average	2.9%	5
Below Average	0.6%	1
Not so Good	0.0%	0
N/A	67.2%	117
Comments (please specify)		16
<b>answered question</b>		<b>174</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>14</b>

	Comments (please specify)
1.	This was very well planned and organized. Loved the tributes and the gifts.
2.	the food was fabulous but the drinks were outrageously priced (I think a glass of wine was over \$10).
3.	very expensive bar!
4.	Didn't attend.
5.	very expensive drinks
6.	So well done!
7.	did not attend
8.	wasn't able to attend
9.	Did not attend
10.	The quilt display was wonderful.
11.	People at the bar were disrespectfully noisy, but there is little that could have been done to prevent this. Maybe shut down the bar for moments like this.
12.	Didn't attend.
13.	This was such a nice way to honor Tom!
14.	excellent food! but, still, 13 bucks for a glass of wine?!?!
15.	This was a lovely event. I was disappointed only by the behavior of some of my colleagues who talked through the presentations to and remarks about Tom. They were very disrespectful -- and very bad at picking up on social cues, such as dirty looks and fingers held to the lips!
16.	could not attend

18. Overall Experience of Awards Banquet		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	17.2%	30
Above Average	10.3%	18
Average	6.3%	11
Below Average	1.1%	2
Not so Good	0.6%	1
N/A	64.4%	112
Comments (please specify)		24
<b>answered question</b>		<b>174</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>14</b>

	<b>Comment (please specify)</b>
1.	The food was great!
2.	again great food.
3.	Didn't attend.
4.	The food,as was all the food at the hotel, was superb, and the award recipients could not have been more gracious or inspiring.
5.	Thanks for giving my ticket to someone --
6.	I think you could have let students know that not all of them would have the opportunity to go up individually to receive their award. Standing all at once to be recognized lacked the specialness found at other association meetings.
7.	did not attend
8.	wasn't able to attend
9.	Didn't attend
10.	Did not attend
11.	Not enough time devoted to individual award winners (should have them at least stand up when their name is called to acknowledge achievements).
12.	I' d really like to go back to the off site banquets. The hotel banquets are predictably dull (despite the wonderful people and Michele's stellar skill).
13.	Switched off this year to attend the SWS banquet. I'm trying to go back and forth with my conference activities from year to year.
14.	The food was good - particularly the gluten-free options. But, again, the starchyness of the hotel turned me off.
15.	The food was good, which is not always the case at banquets. The program moved along well. It was nicely done.
16.	Did not go because I could not afford it.
17.	Very poor quality considering the cost. It would be good to think about why so few people attended this session (given the number of registrants). This might be helpful in planning for future
18.	GREAT FOOD THIS TIME! This is the first SSSP banquet EVER where I was able to choose among non-meat options -- and all of them were terrific.
19.	The food this year was among the best I've had at the banquet and the service was very good, too.
20.	Excellent food!!!
21.	Food was very good. Buffet serving was well organized & fairly quick.
22.	I did not attend because the tickets were too expensive.
23.	good food!
24.	please please move this out of hotel space!

19. Days you attended the annual meeting (select all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Thursday	43.0%	80
Friday	80.1%	149
Saturday	79.0%	147
Sunday	68.3%	127
<b>answered question</b>		<b>186</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>2</b>

**20. Are there accessibility concerns you think SSSP can/should be addressing in regards to the 2009 annual meeting? Or at earlier annual meetings? (Some possible ideas to get you thinking include: hotel space; noise level in meeting rooms; availability of handouts in sessions in alternate formats, such as larger fonts; ability to hear/access discussions in meeting rooms, etc.). If so, please tell us about the concerns in more detail below. If you wish to share more about this or other concerns with the Chair of SSSP's Accessibility Committee, she would welcome hearing from you. You can reach Kathe Lowney at [klowney@valdosta.edu](mailto:klowney@valdosta.edu). Please put SSSP Accessibility in the subject line.**

Answer Options	Response Count
	14
<b>answered question</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>skipped question</b>	<b>174</b>

	Comments (please specify)
1.	I had some issues with using a MAC computer. However, the hotel was more than accommodating and helpful.
2.	Some difficulty in climbing the hill to the hotel from other hotels and most restaurants.
3.	Again, I the Nob Hill location (when ASA and others were in more-flat areas) made walking between meetings more difficult.
4.	Having gender neutral bathrooms this year was great to see. Maybe next year the signage can be on the door, as well as the outside sign. I know some people were confused heading toward the neutral bathroom, only to find "women's room" written on the door.
5.	It would be helpful if accessibility information was sent out to all presenters upon having their papers received, so that everyone has consistent guidelines about making their presentations accessible.
6.	Next time, think about having it on (or near a campus), so attendees can take advantage of campus resources/contacts, and possible housing (to help off-set overall costs of conference for attendees).
7.	The elevators in the hotel were problematic because even though there were three it seemed that only one was ever working, and it went very slowly. This would be a bigger issue for someone who is unable to use the stairs.
8.	N/A
9.	In some meeting spaces, wheelchairs could not enter or maneuver within room. This was problem in upper level rooms because the rooms were too small for audience. Nob Hill was particularly challenging for those with mobility problems.
10.	The meeting spaces, for example the kitchen space used as a session space, was inadequate. It seemed as if this hotel did not have enough meeting space for the conference.

11.	Rooms were very cold and people with arthritis, fibromyalgia or other muscle disorders experience pain in cold areas.
12.	getting up hill would likeley been an issue for many people
13.	general lighting in the meeting rooms was poor, though this obviously had more to do with the hotel than with what you all provided
14.	I appreciate SSSP for their efforts and achievements in making the annual meetings accessible.

**21. Can you suggest ways in which we can improve the annual meeting for next year?**

Answer Options	Response Count
	60
<i>answered question</i>	<b>60</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>128</b>

	Comments (please specify)
1.	Try to make it easier to move back and forth between meetings given that we have two overlap days.
2.	Negotiate free wireless service in the rooms as part of the room fee.
3.	I thought it was a great meeting.
4.	Continue funding for foreign scholars More literature on how to get around the city where the conference is held
5.	Yes, the size of this hotel was better than in Boston, which was too big but for some reason I still couldn't book a room there. We managed to get into the Stanford Court Hotel at the last minute and it was great! Overall I think the mtg was well organized. I think the venue is vey important and hope that you will take this into account when organizing the Atlanta mtg. Michelle was most efficient - thank you!
6.	As a grad paper winner, I would have appreciated presenting in a section that was topically relevant--both to be able to meet others in that area and gain more constructive feedback. But, I am of course very grateful for the opportunity!
7.	Not have it at such an expensive hotel. Meals were excessively expensive.
8.	Eliminate the large printed program for the sake of the environment.
9.	Our location on Nob Hill made it relatively more difficult to access inexpensive food. Also, I like hotels with large, open lobbies so that it is easier for people to mingle in a relaxed atmosphere without having to purchase a beverage. I know that these ideas cannot influence what we do "next year," but pleae consider them in the future. Thank you for a fabulous meeting. It was one of my best in over 20 years.
10.	No -- thanks so much for all you do Michelle and others! I look forward to seeing you in Atlanta! Pam Roby -- no need to reply.
11.	Please encourage better attendance. I was only able to attend on Sunday, but I went to sessions all day and never saw more than 10 people in an audience. There should be incentives for participation, such as book or membership discounts for students, etc.

12.	The two day overlap with ASA is a move in the wrong direction in my opinion. People presented their papers and then went to the ASA. There wasn't anyone left for our sessions. At some point we should try doing our conference with another organization in a smaller warm sunny town in late winter.
13.	No. It's good as is.
14.	Having never been to an SSSP conference before I was a bit surprised to find there wasn't an opening address on the Friday morning...just to give the conference some context and focus on the key themes. Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed the event and would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all those involved in the set-up and organisation.
15.	have meetings finished before and or almost finished before the meetings begin. Most folks can arrive sufficiently early to participate in assigned tasks for meetings (division chairs meetings) so that these folks can actually attend some sessions.
16.	A hotel closer to ASA, because it made it hard to decide which sessions to go to and getting between hotels was not easy. A hotel that is not as confusing to navigate and better media access for presenters.
17.	Session rooms should all be located in the same area instead of some being located in the hotel sleeping floors/rooms.
18.	Improve the quality of the papers included on the program. I also attended last year and found that some of the papers then were also inappropriate for an academic setting--no data, no methods, etc. This is fine for a theory paper, but these were not theory papers.
19.	I think this survey misses the crucial issue of attendance. Why should I present at SSSP to speak only to the people on my panel? I think there will be declining attendance until this problem is addressed. This conference runs a real risk of being entirely irrelevant.
20.	Oh gosh, ask again in a little while. Off hand, hmm...not that I can think of. It was my first annual meeting and I was content.
21.	see suggestion about book exhibit above; also make sure there is affordable transportation between the ASA and SSSP hotels, if there is more than 5 minutes walk or if it is as hilly as in SF
22.	Get the banquet out of the hotel -- give SSSP folks a chance to connect in the city, outside the confines of a windowless room.
23.	I think that you should reach out to more senior people to organize plenaries that will draw people away from ASA. I was so pleased to get the newsletter with the impressive list of new members and I think that we must continue to build on that and continue to revitalize our society.
24.	Meeting of SSSP was fine, but when concurrent sessions were going on at ASA it was difficult to climb up the "mountain" to get from the ASA hotel back to SSSP hotel for paper sessions and other business between SSSP and the ASA hotel. San Francisco is a great city but some of the streets are not pedestrian friendly. I am in pretty good health and work out weekly, it was still difficult to make the climb to travel between ASA and SSSP hotels. Suggestion: Whenever we go to a city like San Francisco, we should have hotels that ASA and SSSP do not involve steep hill climbs to get from one hotel to the other. I walked a few times between hotels, but then had to continuously take a taxi to get from one hotel to the other because I was not accustomed to the overly strenuous climb.
25.	This is likely impossible, but the one thing that plagues us from year to year is our inability to find a hotel/conference center that has a large, open, central meeting area where people can informally congregate, sit around, chat, meet, etc.
26.	Have something more fun at the AIDS fundraiser.
27.	I would like to see a hotel a bit closer to the ASA hotels.
28.	Transporting Atlanta to someplace cooler for the week?

29.	Have it in an affordable space.
30.	In a town like San Francisco, sessions after 2 PM are sparsely attended.
31.	need to take measures to improve participation by listed participants (my experience is that many presiders and presenters don't come) and increase audience size.
32.	move it closer to ASA, please!
33.	Panel chairs need to communicate with panelists, particularly about equipment needs. I had no communication from the chair of my panel, nor did it appear any other panelist had. We all brought flashdrives for PPT presentations. The site provided a PPT projector but no computer, and the chair did not bring a laptop, nor advise anyone else to bring one. Fortunately I decided to bring my own laptop, so we panelists were able to give our presentations. Otherwise it would have been very difficult. Most conferences I attend, even small ones, provide information on these things to chairs who are to pass them on to their panelists.
34.	See above comments (ques. 20).
35.	Yes - keynote address to open the conference. Bring all people together, connect with others. Felt segregated.
36.	It's always good. I hope that we are using union hotels. If not, we are going to Hell.
37.	Inform all SSSP officials who are running the conference about what "gender-neutral" means in terms of restrooms, so when participants ask what it means they aren't clueless. It's important for the people running the show to know why they are doing what they're doing and why it's set up the way it is.
38.	Some tours for guests; cut back on numbers of graduate student/student papers--just cut back (i. e., not eliminate)--quality is suffering; book exhibit should display MORE area interests than only "social problems", i.e., broader theory books; try for cheaper room rates. re: #22: contact me if you like; I don't require it.
39.	Larger meeting rooms for IE sessions; In some years the hotel has run a sort of quick food session. Often they have sold coffee, muffins, sandwiches, juices etc. that attendee could purchase on way to the next meeting. Often eating lunch is not an option since meetings and/or sessions are back to back. I like to see such a service provided by hotel next year.
40.	Provide larger rooms for IE sessions.
41.	Overall, I'd just like to see a more dynamic online program and a slightly more legible program.
42.	I think fewer sessions should be offered in each time block because all of the sessions I attended had very low attendance. In one of the sessions where I was a presenter, only one person attended and one of the presenters left in the middle of the session to go to the ASA conference. I think there should be a policy that presenters for the whole session.
43.	Including the date/time at the top of each page in the program would be helpful
44.	It is difficult to continue to attending the awards banquet when the cost is high and generally, the awards part of the night is pretty dry and less-than engaging. I probably will not attend the banquet next year. Is it possible to have an awards meeting during the day with no competing sessions when more people can attend and then have a fundraising banquet that is more fun for a purpose. I would be happy to pay \$65 - \$75 for an evening with a film or local entertainer/poet/etc which brought SSSP members together for discussion or laughter or swaying to music in our chairs. I just think the banquets are less and less attended and an evening could be planned in which SSSP made some money or at least covered expenses and also provided members with a good time. The awards, if separated from the banquet would still be important but held at a time when members are expecting to sit and listen and show appreciation.
45.	Not really. I had ASA responsibilities, too, which made it hard to do as much as I would have liked to do at EITHER meeting.
46.	More roundtables (combining small sessions into one larger room) might increase congregating and reduce costs for meeting rooms. Such decisions should be based on data about attendance of each Division's



	<p>sessions from previous years. Don't call them Roundtables (or Tables in the Round, etc.); that has a stigma for institutions and presenters. How about something like "Congregated Panels" or "Multi-Panel Session" and each "Table" is a "Panel".</p>
47.	<p>I would have appreciated it if my chair/discussant for my panel showed up or, at the very least, my panel be informed briefly before or shortly after my panel that she would not be there. I had to take the initiative to contact my chair after the conference (not the chair sending an e-mail apologizing to us all). I understand that this is more the fault of the chair, but communication to the panelists about the situation would have been much appreciated.</p>
48.	<p>Return to San Francisco!!</p>
49.	<p>move banquet out of hotel and into the city!</p>
50.	<p>schedule lunch separate from times so people will attend sessions or set up space so they can eat lunch and attend at the same time (brown bags)</p>